



General Assembly

February Session, 2002

Raised Bill No. 5700

LCO No. 2336

Referred to Committee on Government Administration and Elections

Introduced by:
(GAE)

AN ACT CONCERNING ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections*
2 *held after January 1, 2003*) (a) As used in this section, "election day"
3 means the day on which a regular election, as defined in section 9-1 of
4 the general statutes, is held.

5 (b) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 143 of the general
6 statutes, a person who (1) is not an elector and does not have a
7 pending application for admission as elector under said chapter 143,
8 and (2) meets the eligibility requirements under subsection (a) of
9 section 9-12 of the general statutes, may apply for admission as an
10 elector on election day.

11 (c) Any such application shall be made in accordance with the
12 provisions of section 9-20 of the general statutes, provided (1) the
13 applicant shall appear in person at the office of the registrars of voters
14 on election day, (2) an applicant who is a student enrolled at an
15 institution of higher education may submit a current photo

16 identification card issued by said institution in lieu of the identification
17 required by said section 9-20, and (3) the applicant shall declare under
18 oath that the applicant is not, to the applicant's knowledge, already
19 properly admitted as an elector and has not previously voted in the
20 election. If the information that the applicant is required to provide
21 under section 9-20 of the general statutes and this section does not
22 include proof of the applicant's residential address, the applicant shall
23 also submit a United States passport, a military identification card, a
24 learner's permit or a utility bill that has the applicant's name and
25 current address and is due within thirty days after the election or, in
26 the case of a student enrolled at an institution of higher education, a
27 registration or fee statement from such institution that has the
28 applicant's name and current address. If the registrars determine that
29 an applicant is qualified and admit the applicant as an elector, the
30 registrars shall give the applicant a notice of acceptance which
31 indicates the applicant's voting district and polling place. On and after
32 the date that the Secretary of the State certifies to the General
33 Assembly that the state-wide centralized voter registration system is
34 fully operational, pursuant to section 3 of this act, the registrars shall
35 check said system before admitting an applicant as an elector in order
36 to determine whether the applicant is an elector in another
37 municipality in the state.

38 (d) Not later than seven days after each election day, the registrars
39 of voters shall send a confirmation to the residential address of each
40 applicant who is admitted as an elector on election day under this
41 section. Such confirmation shall be sent by first-class mail with
42 instructions on the envelope that it be returned if not deliverable at the
43 address shown on the envelope. If a confirmation is returned
44 undelivered, the registrars shall refer the matter to the State Elections
45 Enforcement Commission which shall immediately conduct an
46 investigation.

47 Sec. 2. Subsection (a) of section 9-261 of the general statutes is
48 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*

49 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003):*

50 (a) In each primary, election or referendum, when an elector has
 51 entered the polling place, [he] the elector shall (1) announce [his] the
 52 elector's street address, if any, and [his] the elector's name to the
 53 checkers in a tone sufficiently loud and clear as to enable all the
 54 election officials present to hear the same, and (2) (A) present to the
 55 checkers [his] the elector's Social Security card or any other preprinted
 56 form of identification which shows [his] the elector's name and either
 57 [his] the elector's address, signature or photograph, or (B) sign a
 58 statement under penalty of false statement, on a form prescribed by
 59 the Secretary of the State, that [he] the elector is the elector whose
 60 name appears on the official checklist. Each of the checkers shall check
 61 the name of such elector on the official checklist. In the case of an
 62 elector who is admitted on election day under section 1 of this act, the
 63 elector shall also present to the moderator the notice of acceptance
 64 given to the elector under said section 1, and the moderator shall add
 65 the elector's name and address to the official checklist on such day and
 66 the elector shall be allowed to vote if otherwise eligible to vote.

67 Sec. 3. (NEW) (*Effective January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held*
 68 *after January 1, 2003*) Upon determining that the state-wide centralized
 69 voter registration system is fully completed and operational, the
 70 Secretary of the State shall certify such completion to the General
 71 Assembly.

72 Sec. 4. Section 9-158a of the general statutes is repealed and the
 73 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*
 74 *applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

75 As used in sections 9-139c, 9-140b, 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, and
 76 9-307:

77 (1) "Federal election" means any general or special election or any
 78 primary held solely or in part for the purpose of selecting, nominating
 79 or electing any candidate for the office of president, vice president,

80 presidential elector, member of the United States Senate or member of
81 the United States House of Representatives;

82 (2) "Former resident" means a person who was a bona fide resident
83 of a town in this state and who has [removed] moved from that town
84 to another state less than thirty days before the day of a presidential
85 election and who for that reason is unable to register to vote in the
86 election in [his] said person's present [town or] state of residence;

87 (3) "Overseas elector" means any person permitted to vote pursuant
88 to subsection (b) of section 9-158b;

89 (4) "Presidential election" means an election at which electors of
90 President and Vice-President are elected;

91 (5) "Resident" means a bona fide resident of a town in this state;

92 (6) "State" includes any of the several states, the District of
93 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin
94 Islands; and

95 (7) "United States" includes the several states, the District of
96 Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, Guam and the Virgin
97 Islands, but does not include American Samoa, The Canal Zone, the
98 trust territory of the Pacific Islands or any other territory or possession
99 of the United States.

100 Sec. 5. Subsection (a) of section 9-158b of the general statutes is
101 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
102 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

103 (a) Each citizen of the United States who is at least eighteen years of
104 age, is a [resident or] former resident and [who] has not forfeited [his]
105 said citizen's electoral privileges because of a disfranchising crime,
106 may vote for presidential and vice-presidential electors, but for no
107 other offices, in the town in this state in which [he resides, or] said
108 citizen formerly resided in the manner provided in sections 9-158c to 9-

109 158m, inclusive, as amended by this act.

110 Sec. 6. Subsection (a) of section 9-158c of the general statutes is
111 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
112 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

113 (a) Not earlier than forty-five days before the election and not later
114 than the close of the polls on election day, each [resident, or] former
115 resident who desires to vote in a presidential election under sections 9-
116 158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, may apply for a
117 "presidential ballot" to the municipal clerk of the town in which [he]
118 said former resident is qualified to vote on the form prescribed in
119 section 9-158d, as amended by this act. Application for a "presidential
120 ballot" may be made in person or absentee, in the manner provided for
121 applying for an absentee ballot under section 9-140, except as provided
122 in said sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive.

123 Sec. 7. Subsection (a) of section 9-158d of the general statutes is
124 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
125 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

126 (a) The application for a presidential ballot shall be a form signed in
127 duplicate by the applicant under penalty of false statement in absentee
128 balloting, which shall provide substantially as follows:

129 To the Town Clerk of the Town of Connecticut

130 I, the undersigned, declare under penalty of false statement in
131 absentee balloting that the following statements are true:

132 1. I am a citizen of the United States.

133 2. I have not forfeited my electoral privileges because of conviction
134 of a disfranchising crime.

135 3. I was born on ..., and on the day of the next presidential election,
136 I shall be at least 18 years of age. [Check and complete 4 or 5,

137 whichever applies:

138 4. RESIDENT. I am a bona fide resident of the above town, to which
139 I am making this application, and I reside at Street. I moved to said
140 town on the day of ..., 20... Before becoming a resident of said town,
141 I resided at Street, in the Town of County of ..., State of]

142 [5.] 4. FORMER RESIDENT. I am a former resident of the above
143 town, to which I am making this application, and resided at Street
144 therein. I moved from such town to my present town of residence on
145 the day of, 20.., being within thirty days before the date of the
146 next presidential election, and for that reason I cannot register to vote
147 in said presidential election in my present town of residence. I am now
148 a bona fide resident of the Town of, in the state of, now residing
149 at Street therein.

150 [6.] 5. I hereby apply for a "presidential ballot" for the election to be
151 held on ..., 20... I have not voted and will not vote otherwise than by
152 this ballot at that election. I am not eligible to vote for electors of
153 President and Vice-President [in any other town in Connecticut or] in
154 any other state.

155 [7.] 6. The said ballot is to be given to me personally mailed to me at
156 (bona fide mailing address)

157 Dated at, this day of 20...

158 (Signature of applicant)

159 Sec. 8. Subsection (a) of section 9-158e of the general statutes is
160 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective*
161 *January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

(a) Upon receipt of an application for a presidential ballot under sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as amended by this act, the clerk, if satisfied that the application is proper and that the applicant is

165 qualified to vote under said sections, shall forthwith give or mail to the
 166 applicant, as the case may be, a ballot for presidential and vice-
 167 presidential electors for use at the election and instructions and
 168 envelopes for its return. At such time the clerks shall also mail a
 169 duplicate of the application to the appropriate official of [(1) the state
 170 or the town in this state in which the applicant last resided in the case
 171 of an applicant who is a resident, or (2)] the state [or the town in this
 172 state] in which the applicant now resides. [in the case of an applicant
 173 who is a former resident.]

174 Sec. 9. Section 9-158j of the general statutes is repealed and the
 175 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*
 176 *applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

177 Upon receipt of an application for a "Presidential Ballot" or
 178 "Overseas Ballot" the town clerk shall forthwith notify the registrars of
 179 voters of the applicant's name, with a notation designating [him] the
 180 applicant as a person voting for presidential and vice-presidential
 181 electors or federal offices only. If the name of a presidential voter [who
 182 is a former resident] appears on the registry list, the registrars shall
 183 insert the letters "pf" in the margin preceding [his] the voter's name.
 184 The registrars shall prepare a list of names and addresses of
 185 presidential voters and overseas electors whose names do not appear
 186 on the registry list, for each voting district, which list shall accompany
 187 the check list to be used at such election in such district. The registrars
 188 shall insert the letters "pf" in the margin of such list of presidential
 189 voters preceding the name of each applicant. [who is a former
 190 resident.]

191 Sec. 10. Section 9-158k of the general statutes is repealed and the
 192 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective January 1, 2003, and*
 193 *applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003*):

194 The municipal clerk shall file each duplicate application or other
 195 official information received by [him] such clerk from another state, [or
 196 from another town in this state,] indicating that a person who formerly

197 resided [or presently resides] in such town has made application to
 198 vote at a presidential election in such other state, [or town,] and shall
 199 maintain an alphabetical index of such information for a period of one
 200 hundred eighty days after the election. The clerk shall compare each
 201 such application or statement of information with applications made
 202 under the provisions of sections 9-158a to 9-158m, inclusive, as
 203 amended by this act, and, after the election, with the names checked
 204 off as having voted on the check list for the election, to ascertain that
 205 any such person has not voted more than once. Whenever the record
 206 indicates that any person has applied for a presidential ballot and
 207 indicated in [his] such person's application that [he] such person is
 208 applying as a former resident, and there is record evidence that such
 209 person has applied in another state [or town] as a new resident, the
 210 applicant's ballot shall not be cast in [his] such person's former town of
 211 residence.

This act shall take effect as follows:	
Section 1	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 2	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 3	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 4	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 5	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 6	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 7	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 8	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 9	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>
Sec. 10	<i>January 1, 2003, and applicable to elections held after January 1, 2003</i>

Statement of Purpose:

To allow people to register to vote and cast ballots on the day of a regular state or municipal election.

[Proposed deletions are enclosed in brackets. Proposed additions are indicated by underline, except that when the entire text of a bill or resolution or a section of a bill or resolution is new, it is not underlined.]